

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 963

By Cooper B

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor Judge D'Army Bailey for his meritorious service to the citizens of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pay tribute to those sterling individuals who, through their extraordinary efforts and vision, have distinguished themselves as community leaders; and

WHEREAS, The Honorable D'Army Bailey is one such outstanding citizen who has rendered public and civic service with extraordinary dedication and unprecedented integrity, giving unselfishly of himself, his time, and his talents for the greater good of his family and friends, his culture, and the greater Memphis community; and

WHEREAS, a Memphis native, Judge Bailey graduated from Booker T. Washington High School before enrolling in college at Southern University, where he showed tremendous courage and integrity by joining student protest demonstrations against segregation in Baton Rouge; and

WHEREAS, D'Army Bailey finished his bachelor's work at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts, before pursuing his law studies at Boston University Law School and Yale Law School; and

WHEREAS, Judge Bailey further displayed his staunch sense of fairness and justice in New York, where he served with acumen and alacrity as the National Director of the Law Students Civil Rights Research Council, an organization created to assist civil rights attorneys working in the South, and as a program advisor for the Field Foundation; and

WHEREAS, he then moved to San Francisco, California, where he practiced law as a staff attorney for the San Francisco Neighborhood Legal Assistance Foundation; Judge Bailey

was quickly recognized for his leadership abilities and was elected to the Berkeley City Council in 1971; and

WHEREAS, he returned to Memphis in 1974 and founded a law practice with his brother, dedicating himself to the practice until his election to the Circuit Court of Tennessee at Memphis in 1990; he was re-elected in 1998, and continues to serve the Memphis community with dignity, honor, and distinction in the post; and

WHEREAS, as a circuit court judge, Judge Bailey has successfully tried to conclusion complex lawsuits involving claims of medical malpractice and products liability, including Shelby County's only major tobacco liability lawsuit; Judge Bailey also enjoys the singular distinction of leading all nine divisions of the Circuit Court with the lowest caseload backlog and the shortest time taken to dispose of cases from beginning to end; and

WHEREAS, Judge D'Army Bailey has generously shared his vast legal experience and expertise as a lecturer at the law schools of Loyola in California, Washington and Lee, Washington University in St. Louis, and Notre Dame; he has also published legal articles in scholarly journals and law reviews at the University of Toledo, Washington and Lee, Howard University, and Harvard University; and

WHEREAS, Judge Bailey has enjoyed an enviable legal career and has dedicated his time to several organizations; in addition to serving as a member of the Memphis, Tennessee, and California Bar Associations and the Executive Committee of the Tennessee Judicial Conference, he also has served on the Judicial Council of the National Bar Association, the Tennessee Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission, and as Special Judge on the Tennessee Court of Appeals; and

WHEREAS, a civic-minded man, D'Army Bailey has rendered distinguished service on the board of directors of the Africa in April International Cultural Festival and Screen Actors Guild as well as the Presidents Advisory Council for LeMoyne-Owen College and Rhodes College; and

WHEREAS, due to the superior quality of his judicial service and the depth and sincerity of his ethics and beliefs, Judge Bailey has earned the respect of his constituents and colleagues, alike; and

WHEREAS, a pioneering advocate of civil rights, Judge D'Army Bailey determinedly fought to preserve the Lorraine Motel, the site of Dr. Martin Luther King's assassination; after many years of fundraising, Judge Bailey's vision was realized in 1991 when the historic landmark was restored and transformed in the National Civil Rights Museum, of which he is the founding President Emeritus; and

WHEREAS, Judge Bailey epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional and dedicated public servant whose untold sacrifices to preserve the history and memories of those civil rights leaders who paved the way for the present generation to enjoy certain liberties; and

WHEREAS, possessing a magnetic personality, his charisma and appeal have been displayed on the movie screen through his roles in the popular movies *The People vs. Larry Flynt*, *How Stella Got Her Groove Back*, and *Mystery Train*; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, D'Army Bailey is most appreciative of the love and support he receives from his devoted wife, Adrienne, and their two sons, Justin and Merritt; and

WHEREAS, The Honorable D'Army Bailey is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Judge D'Army Bailey for his praiseworthy service to the citizens of this State, salute his exemplary efforts in preserving the history of Tennessee and the Civil Rights Movement, and extend our heartfelt wishes for continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.